

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03

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R 111514Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2698

INFO USMISSION NATO

SECDEF WASHDC

JCS WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USCINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

16TH AF TORREJON

/JUSMG/MAAG SPAIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, SP, US

SUBJ: SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS--COMMENT PRECEDING ROUND 9

SUMMARY: THE ABSENCE THUS FAR OF MUCH COMMENT IN SPANISH PRESS REGARDING COMING 9TH ROUND OF US-SPANISH BASE NEGOTIATIONS REFLECTS MORE THE AUGUST HOLIDAYS THAN A DECREASE OF INTEREST. STATEMENTS IN PUBLIC BY SPANISH OFFICIALS INVOLVED CONTINUE TO REFLECT WHAT MIGHT BE TERMED "GUARDED OPTIMISM." BOTH ROVIRA AND PERINAT AT FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE BEEN AWAY ON LEAVE FOR MORE THAN A WEEK. PERINAT'S COMMENTS TO US BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE MADE CLEAR HIS HOPE THAT US WOULD TURN ROUND 9 INTO AN ACTIVE SESSION WHICH MIGHT MAKE POSSIBLE COMPLETION OF TALKS BY SEPTEMBER 26. END SUMMARY.

1. TWO RECENT PUBLIC COMMENTS BY GOS OFFICIALS RECONFIRM THE LINE BEING USED HERE THAT THERE WILL BE A NEW (AND DIFFERENT) LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AGREEMENT, ALTHOUGH THE NEGOTIATION IS COMPLEX. UPON RETURN

FROM CSCE SUMMIT IN HELSINKI, PRIME MINISTER ARIAS TOLD THE PRESS:
"MY MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD WAS VERY CORDIAL. I SHOULD NOT
HIDE THE FACT THAT DURING OUR TALK THE THEME OF THE AMERICAN
BASES (SIC) IN SPAIN CAME UP, WITH THE US PRESIDENT MANIFESTING
HIS INTEREST IN OUR ARRIVING DURING THE NEXT ROUNDS OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS AT A SATISFACTORY AGREEMENT, IN ORDER TO PRODUCE
THE NECESSARY COINCIDENCE OF VIEWS. THAT SAID, I ALSO WANT
TO NOTE THAT, AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, WE ARE ONLY TRYING
TO DEFEND SPAIN AND SPANISH INTERESTS, WITHOUT THEREBY
DENYING THE REQUIREMENTS WHICH THE TWO COUNTRIES MAY HAVE.
I HAVE NEVER BEEN PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE
NEGOTIATION, BUT IT SHOULD NOT BE FORGOTTEN THAT IN EVERY
NEGOTIATION THERE EXIST TWO PARTIES AND ACCOUNT MUST BE
TAKEN OF THE REACTIONS OF THE OTHER PARTY."

2. AT HIS VACATION RETREAT, FOREIGN MINISTRY'S DIRECTOR GENERAL
FOR NORTH AMERICAN AFFAIRS, PERINAT, TOLD THE PRESS THAT THE
NEGOTIATIONS ARE NOT DEADLOCKED AND THAT HE CONTINUES TO BE
MODERATELY OPTIMISTIC. "THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING," HE
SAID, "AND WE WILL SEE WHAT HAPPENS IN THE 9TH ROUND."
THERE COULD BE AN EXTENSION OF THE PRESENT AGREEMENT BUT NOT
NECESSARILY SO. FURTHER, HE POINTED OUT THAT, FROM THE
VIEWPOINT OF INTERNATIONAL LAW, IT WOULD MAKE NO DIFFERENCE
WHETHER THE NEW AGREEMENT WAS HANDLED IN THE UNITED STATES
AS A TREATY OR AN EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT; HE CHARACTERIZED THIS AS
AN INTERNAL PROBLEM FOR THE UNITED STATES. FINALLY, ADDRESSING
THE NATO QUESTION, HE DESCRIBED THE SPANISH INTEREST AS ONE OF
ACHIEVING A "GRADUAL COORDINATION," STRONGLY IMPLYING SOMETHING
SHORT OF MEMBERSHIP. THIS COULD BE ACHIEVED EITHER WITHIN A
MUTUAL DEFENSE SYSTEM WITH THE UNITED STATES OR DIRECTLY.

3. THE AUGUST 1-5 TALKS IN MADRID ON ADMINISTRATIVE AND
FISCAL ASPECTS WERE REPORTED MATTER OF FACTLY IN THE SPANISH
PRESS, WITHOUT ANY DETAILS ON THEIR SUBSTANCE.

4. COMMENT: WE DO NOT TAKE THE ABOVE AS AN INDICATION OF ANY
CHANGE IN THE SPANISH POSTURE.
STABLER

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